

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrostatic discharge protection circuit
for protecting an internal circuit of a semiconductor
5 device against an electrostatic discharge, comprising:

an internal circuit connected with a first and a
second power source terminal;

10 a transistor switching a source and a drain
connected to the first and the second power source
terminal, respectively, in accordance with voltage
supplied to a back gate;

15 a first diode connected between the first power
source terminal and the back gate, the first diode
supplying a positive discharge voltage generated in the
first power source terminal to the back gate;

a second diode connected between the second power
source terminal and the back gate, the second diode
supplying a positive discharge voltage generated in the
second power source terminal to the back gate; and

20 a voltage-dividing circuit dividing and supplying
the discharge voltages to the gate of the transistor, the
voltage-dividing circuit controlling ON/OFF operation of a
source-drain path of the transition.

25 2. The electrostatic discharge protection circuit
according to claim 1, wherein the transistor comprises:

a first power source terminal side serving as a

source when the positive discharge voltage is supplied from the first power source terminal to the back gate, and

a second power source terminal side serving as a source when the positive discharge voltage is supplied
5 from the second power source terminal to the back gate.

3. The electrostatic discharge protection circuit according to claim 1, wherein the voltage-dividing circuit equally divides the discharge voltage and supplies the
10 voltage to the gate.

4. The electrostatic discharge protection circuit according to claim 1, wherein the voltage-dividing circuit unidirectionally runs a current caused by the discharge
15 voltage.

5. The electrostatic discharge protection circuit according to claim 1, comprising diodes connected between an input/output terminal of the internal circuit and the
20 first and the second power source terminal, respectively, the diodes carrying the discharge voltage produced in the input/output terminal to the first and the second power source terminal, respectively, in the form of an electric current.